

A red and white Pierce fire engine truck is parked on a paved surface. The truck features a large American flag on the front grille, a red and yellow chevron pattern on the bumper, and a red sign on the side that reads "SANDY SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT". The number "3" is visible on the front bumper. The truck is equipped with various emergency lights and a ladder on top. The background shows bare trees and a clear blue sky.

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue

2015 Annual Report

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue

"Outstanding Service by Outstanding People."





Sandy Springs Fire Rescue

"Outstanding Service by Outstanding People."



DEPARTMENT AT A GLANCE

- Our Mission Statement and Vision
- City Government
- Fire Department Organizational Chart
- Fire Stations
- Mutual Aid Stations
- Station Map
- How We Respond to Calls
- Why Are There So Many Units at My House?



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Our Mission

We provide the highest level of fire and emergency services to our citizens and visitors with highly trained, caring personnel. We provide excellent customer service in response, education, prevention and professional services.

Our Vision

Our vision is to show respect, value, pride, compassion and commitment to our members and the citizens of Sandy Springs.





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City Government

- Rusty Paul, **Mayor**
- John McDonough, **City Manager**
- John Paulson –**District 1**
- Ken Dishman –**District 2**
- Graham McDonald –**District 3**
- Gabriel Sterling –**District 4**
- Tibby DeJulio –**District 5**
- Andy Bauman –**District 6**

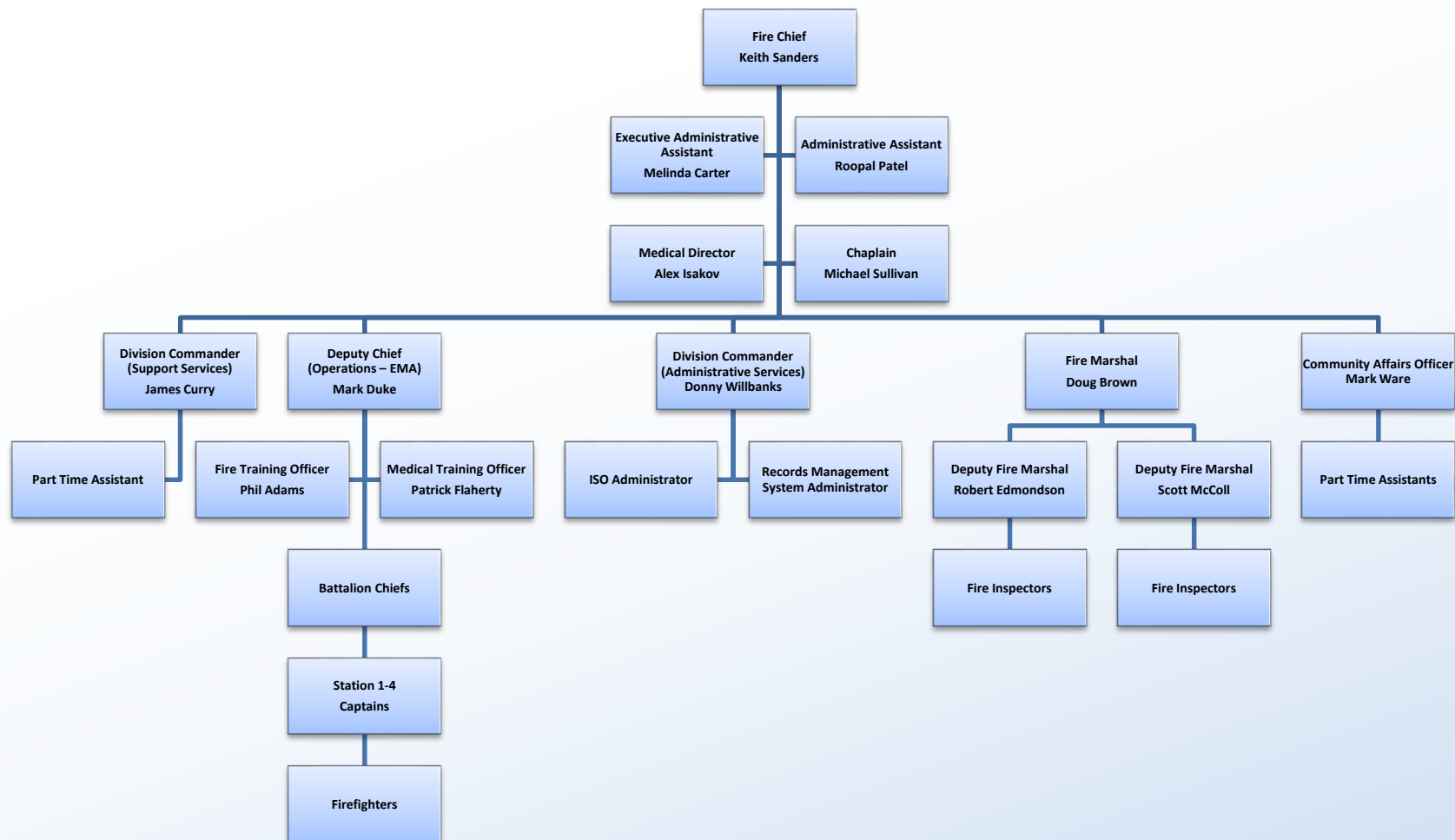


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Fire Department Organizational Chart



Fire Station 1



1425 Spalding Drive
Sandy Springs, Georgia 30350

Fire Station One was built in 1968. The daily minimum staffing at includes a three person engine company, a three person truck company and a two person Paramedic Rescue Company.

Sandy Springs uses quints for truck companies. The name quint refers to the five functions that a quint provides: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device, and ground ladders.

Fire Station 2



135 Johnson Ferry Road
Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328

Fire Station Two was built in 1969. The daily minimum staffing at includes a three person engine company, a three person tower truck company, a two person paramedic rescue company and the on duty Battalion Chief.

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Fire Station 3



6025 Raider Drive
Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328

Fire Station Three was built in 2002. The daily minimum staffing at includes a three person paramedic truck company. Also available at this station is a wagon truck.

Fire Station 4



4697 Wieuca Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30342

Fire Station Four was built in 1975. The daily minimum staffing at includes a four person truck company and a two person paramedic rescue company. Also available at this station is a brush truck.

Atlanta Station 27 (Automatic Aid)



4260 Northside Dr. NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30342

The daily minimum staffing at Fire Station 27 includes a three person engine. Also available at this station is a hose wagon.

Dekalb Station 18 (Automatic Aid)



4588 Barclay Dr.
Dunwoody, GA 30338

The daily minimum staffing at Fire Station 18 includes an Engine Company, a Truck Company, and two people staffing a Paramedic Rescue Company. Also available at this station is a decontamination unit.

Roswell Station 7 (Automatic Aid)



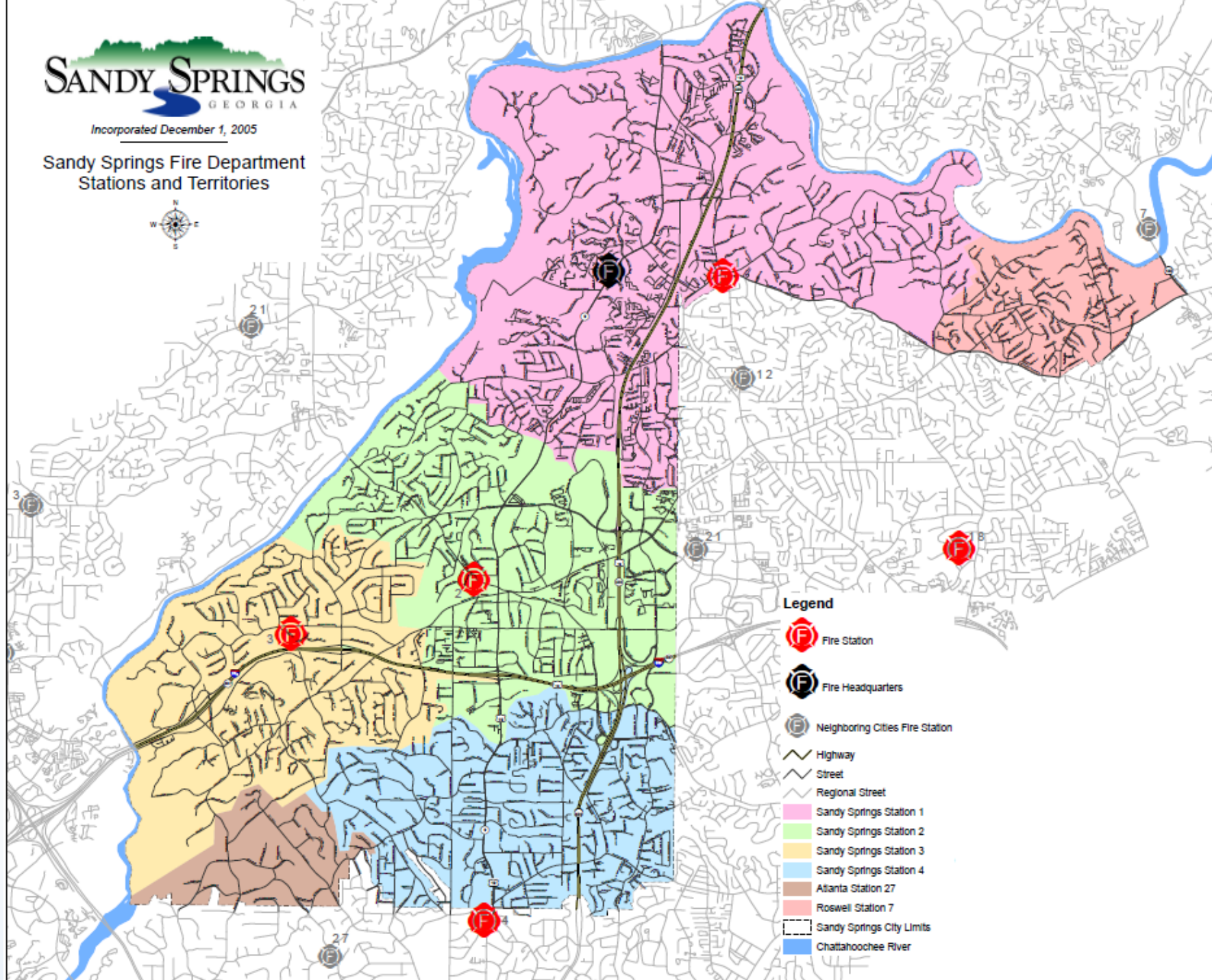
8025 Holcomb Bridge Road
Alpharetta, GA 30022

The daily minimum staffing at Fire Station 7 includes a three person Truck company.

SANDY SPRINGS GEORGIA

Incorporated December 1, 2005

Sandy Springs Fire Department Stations and Territories



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How We Respond to Calls

All SSFR emergency response vehicles are licensed as first responder units with the state –an engine, the truck or rescue unit may respond to your medical call in addition to Rural Metro Ambulance (RMA).

- First responder units operate with two to four firefighters with EMS certification up to the paramedic level.
- Engines and the trucks operate with a minimum three-person FF / EMT Crew.
- ONLY engines and trucks can manage a fire call; additional resources are sent if needed.
- The closest available appropriate unit will be dispatched to your emergency call.
- A basic life support medical call (BLS) will usually have a rescue unit with two people and a RMA ambulance; more crews are called if needed.
- An advanced life support (ALS) call may have two fire units with five-six people total and a RMA ambulance; more crews are called if needed.





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Why Are There so Many Units at my House on a Medical Call?

- Each emergency medical call will get the closest RMA ambulance to respond, along with a SSFR unit on most medical calls.
- If the closest unit is an engine or truck, it will have a minimum of three firefighters.
- If the closest unit is a rescue unit, it will have two firefighters, one of which is a paramedic.
- The crews on scene may also request additional help for lifting, moving or patient care – resulting in more units and people at your house or business.
- ALS calls -If the call is serious –potentially needing advanced life support -you will get the closest unit (truck and/or rescue unit) and an ambulance unit will be dispatched with a paramedic. This means four to eight people and two to three vehicles.
- If transport is necessary, the ambulance crew will transport the patient.
- Occasionally, the police department responds with the fire department to offer assistance if necessary.
- While it may seem like a lot of people and vehicles, each unit has specific duties to perform. As soon as they are no longer needed, they will go back into service and be ready for the next emergency.



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INCIDENT ANALYSIS

- Major Incident Types, Overview
- "The Busiest", Unit Responses, and Annual Call Volume
- Fire Responses
- Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Responses
- Service Calls
- Good Intent Calls
- Alarm System Activations
- Aid Agreement with Atlanta Fire Rescue Department
- Aid Agreement with DeKalb Fire Rescue Department
- Aid Agreement with Roswell Fire Department

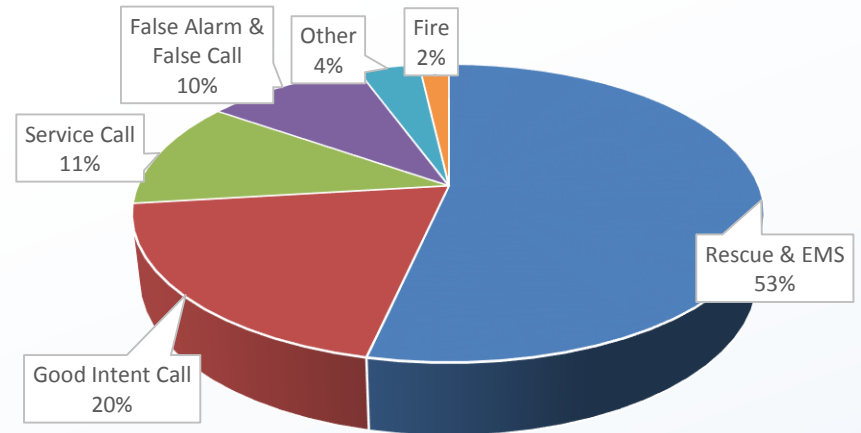


Major Incident Types, Overview

In 2015, Sandy Springs Fire Rescue (SSFR) responded to 10,622 requests for emergency and non-emergency assistance.



Photo Credit: HYOSUB SHIN - AJC



Rescue & EMS	5680
Good Intent Call	2084
Service Call	1230
False Alarm & False Call	1035
Other	400
Fire	193

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue

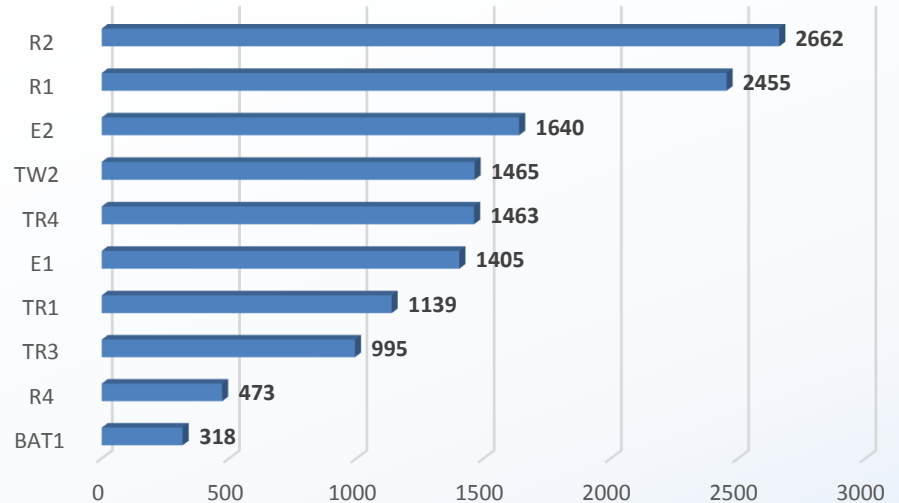
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"The Busiest" 2015

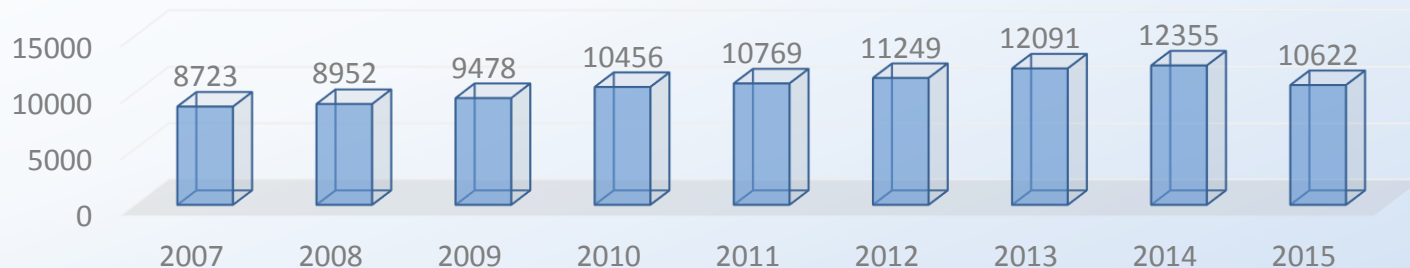
Busiest Station	Station 2 (6,085)
Busiest Truck	Tower 2 (1,465)
Busiest Engine	Engine 2 (1,640)
Busiest Rescue	Rescue 2 (2,662)
Busiest Unit	Rescue 2 (2,662)
Busiest Day of Week	Monday (1,702)
Busiest Shift	A Shift (3,568)
Busiest Hour	12 pm (649)

Responses by Unit



* Calculations are figured on en-route responses and exclude pre-alerts.

Annual Call Volume

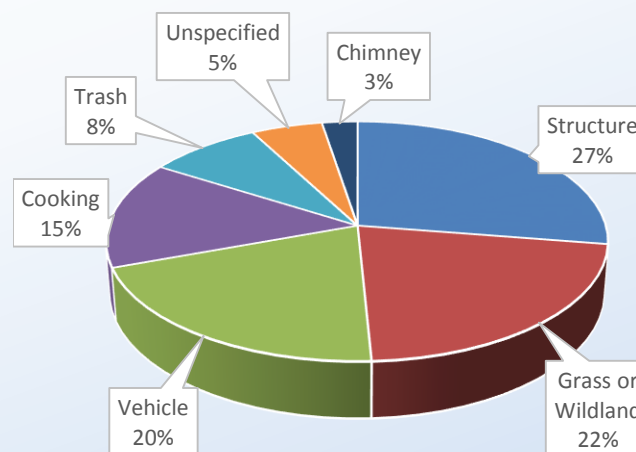


Fire Responses

SSFR responded to 193 calls for fire suppression in 2015.

The specific breakdown includes:

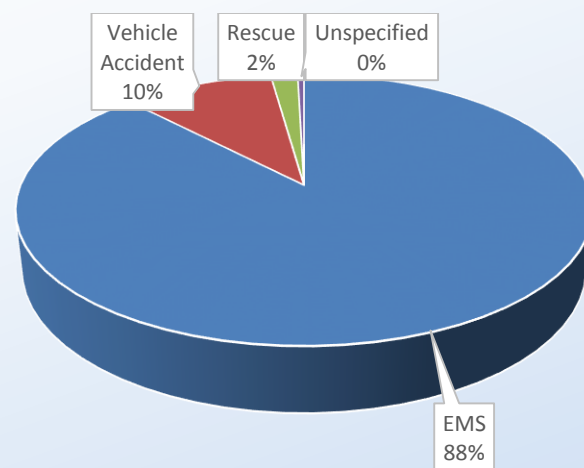
- 53 structure fires. Calls involved a house or business with the structural members on fire, not just a pot on the stove, for example.
- 42 grass or wild land fires. Calls range from grassy or stubble fields, to trees, shrubs and brush.
- 39 vehicle fires. Calls include cars, RVs and commercial trucks.
- 28 cooking fires. Calls where "pot on the stove" fires do not get out of control.
- 16 trash fires. Calls include rubbish fires or fires in some kind of trash receptacle.
- 10 unspecified fires. Calls were not further categorized.
- 5 chimney fires. Fires in this category are confined to the chimney and did not extend to the structure.



Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Responses

SSFR responded to 5,680 calls for emergency medical services and rescue in 2015. The specific breakdown includes:

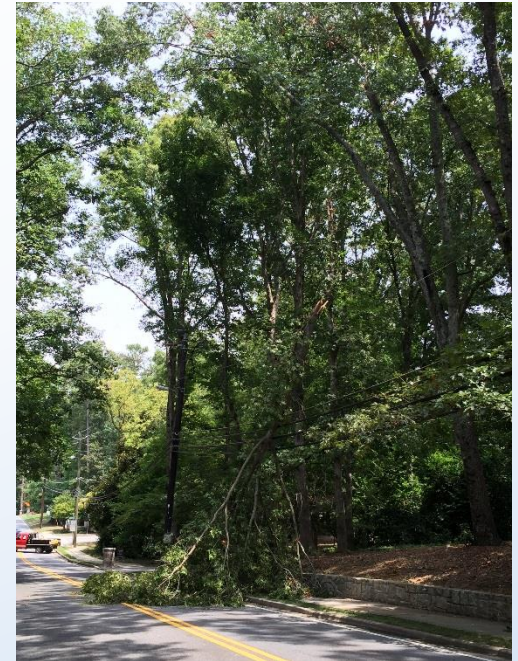
- 4,986 EMS calls. These include both Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS).
- 568 motor vehicle crashes. Calls include incidents where cars collide with each other, into objects or hit pedestrians.
- 102 rescues. Calls include search for persons, water rescue, lock-ins, and extrication or elevator rescues.
- 24 unspecified rescue or EMS calls. Calls were not further categorized.



Service Calls

SSFR responded to 1,230 calls for services of various types in 2015. The specific breakdown includes:

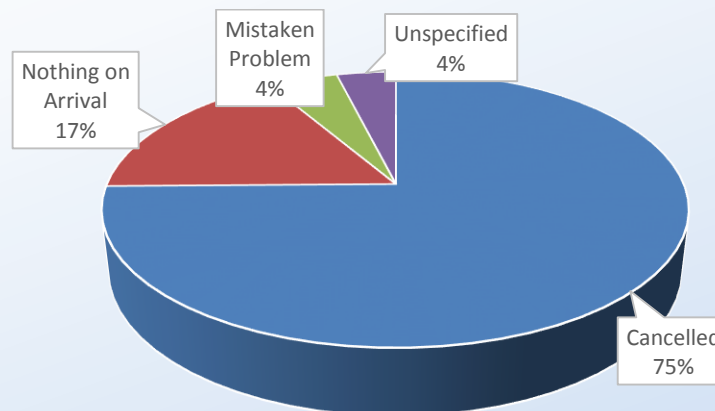
- 455 invalid assists. Although anyone may need to be assisted, a high percentage of these calls are centered on the concentration of aging residents.
- 288 public service assistance calls. These include calls where law enforcement is calling for a service that they cannot provide or for which they need specialized resources.
- 175 water problem calls. These include broken pipe flooding-the-basement problems.
- 148 tree problem calls. These involve a tree fall onto a roadway or utility line.
- 67 person in distress calls. These calls often involve lock-outs of vehicles.
- 53 smoke or odor problem calls. Many times the call is for an investigation or removal of smoke or a strange odor.
- 21 animal rescue or problem calls. The animals encountered vary.
- 18 unauthorized burning calls. The department gets called when residents have a complaint about something burning; if it is outside of the established rules it is classified as an unauthorized burning.
- 5 unspecified service calls. These calls were not further categorized.



Good Intent Calls

SSFR responded to 2,084 calls where the caller had good intentions but no problem existed. A more specific breakdown of these calls include:

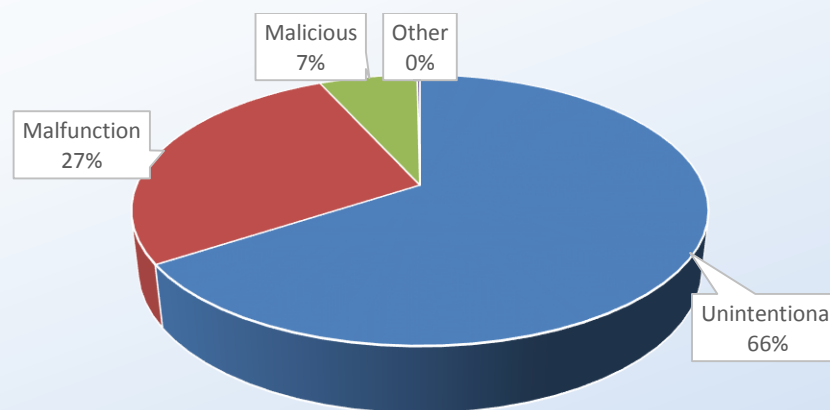
- 1,558 dispatched and cancelled en-route. Calls are dispatched and the responding unit is cancelled while they are still responding. The dispatcher is able to determine from the caller that no problem actually exists and then cancel the units before they arrive.
- 350 nothing found on arrival. Many times these calls are initiated then the unit arrives and nothing is found at the reported location.
- 95 mistaken problem calls. These calls are dispatched as potential fires or alarms, but upon arrival the situation is found to be steam or smell of smoke in the area with nothing else found or smoke from a barbeque, etc.
- 81 unspecified good intent calls. These calls were not further categorized.



Alarm System Activations and False Calls

SSFR responded to 1,035 calls for alarm system activations where there was no fire. This category also includes dispatch errors, where the dispatch center mistakenly assigns an incident number where there has been no call. A more specific breakdown of these types of calls include:

- 681 alarm activations due to unintentional causes. Most often, these calls arise when a system is having work done and the alarm company forgets to notify the city; the work causes the alarm to activate and it must be investigated.
- 284 system activations due to malfunctions. Sometimes a system problem will activate the system and an alarm is transmitted that must be investigated.
- 68 malicious or mischievous alarm activations. These alarm system activations were found on arrival to have been deliberately activated although there had been no emergency.





Aid Agreement with Atlanta Fire Rescue

- In January of 2009, the City of Sandy Springs and the City of Atlanta signed an agreement of mutual aid and automatic response for the use of Atlanta Fire Station 27.
- The agreement will give the southwestern part of Sandy Springs supplemental fire suppression, protection, prevention and emergency medical services in the event of a fire and/or other local emergency.
- The agreement also offers joint training opportunities to firefighters from Sandy Springs and Atlanta.



Aid Agreement with DeKalb Fire Rescue Department

- In 2013, Sandy Springs Fire Rescue transitioned from an agreement of automatic response with Roswell Fire Department to DeKalb County Fire Rescue (DCFR).
- The agreement was signed in August of 2013, by City of Sandy Springs and DCFR officials.
- The result is decreased response times to homes in the Sandy Springs panhandle.
- First due units are assigned from Station 18, and the next due stations are 12 and 21.
- On structure fires, DCFR will send a Truck (or Quint), an engine, and Battalion Chief vehicle.



Aid Agreement with Roswell Fire Department

- The City of Sandy Springs and the City of Roswell have an aid agreement and agreement for Sandy Springs to use Roswell Station #7.
- This aid decreases response times to homes in the Sandy Springs panhandle.
- SSFR Engine 5 crew will be stationed at Roswell Station #7.





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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

In addition to emergency and non-emergency responses, SSFR provides and supports other programs that improve the quality of life for our residents. These include:

- Community Events
- Fire Safety Education
- QR Codes
- Child Safety Seat Inspections
- Tornado Sirens
- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Citizen Fire Academy and Corps
- Community CPR and AED Training
- National AED Registry
- Fire Inspections and Investigations
- Water Response Team
- Specialized Tactics for Operational and Rescue Medicine Program

Community Events

In 2015, the Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department conducted over 436 community events and more than 29,663 people participated. Types of events included:

- Civic organizations
- Corporate functions
- Heritage of Sandy Springs festival
- Parades and other festivals
- Events at schools and churches
- Neighborhood events
- Smoke detector inspections
- Weather radio installations
- Free blood pressure checks
- Holiday toy drive
- Independence Day Fireworks Show



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Fire Safety Education

Each year Sandy Springs Fire Rescue provides fire safety education to the community with the goal of saving lives and property by preventing fires. Events include:

- National night out
- Fire safety week
- Friendly firefighter presentations
- Firefighter story time
- Fire safety lessons
- Fire truck tours
- Fire station tours
- Fire station birthday parties
- Fire safety house
- Career Days (Middle/High School)
- Boy/Girl Scout fire education
- Fire extinguisher simulator
- Distracted driving education



QR Codes

- Sandy Springs Fire Rescue (SSFR) uses Quick Response (QR) Codes on their vehicles to direct users to the Department's web page where users can get the latest information on CPR and CERT classes, fire ordinances and more.
- Sandy Springs Fire Rescue also includes a QR code on business cards to link to an American Heart Association video instructing people on hands-only CPR with the goal of saving lives.

Learn it... before you need it

2 Easy Steps for Effective **CPR:**

scan here



scan here

scan here

Scan the QR code (on the left) with your smart phone to learn the HANDS-ONLY CPR DEMONSTRATION.

Smart Phone apps:
Download the free app to your iPhone, Android or Palm Pre.



Child Safety Seat Installations

- In 2015, child safety seat inspections and education became managed by the Community Affairs Unit. The new streamlined process ensures residents receive timely inspections.
- SSFR trained 288 people in child safety seats and inspected 181 car seats this year and provided comprehensive instruction.
- 8 fire fighters are certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians with 1 certified as an instructor.



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

CERT has a total of 277 members to date. CERT is designed to act as a liaison with the fire department during emergencies and its members are responsible for specific geographical territories. Examples of abilities include:

- Shelter management
- First responder reports
- Scene safety and control

CERT members receive 20 hours of specialized training such as:

- Establishing barricades
- Using survival kits
- Tabletop drills (Tornado, Missing Person, High-rise fires)



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Citizen Fire Academy and Corps

In 2015, 15 CERT members completed the City's inaugural Citizen Fire Academy, a 56 hour Fire Corps program. The Fire Corps is designed for integration into the fire department and performs many of the following tasks:

- CPR/First Aid
- Emergency Communications
- Firefighter Rehab
- Lock-out calls
- Non-hazardous scene control
- Fire safety programs



Community CPR and AED training

- The fire rescue staff exceeded the national standards of community CPR and AED training by providing training to businesses, schools and other residents of Sandy Springs.
- The City of Sandy Springs was recognized by the American Heart Association as a "Heart Ready City" in March 2009.
- Partnered with the American Heart Association on Friends and Family CPR/AED including "Hands-only CPR".
- All police vehicles are equipped with AEDs and medical bags.
- Our bystander CPR rate exceeds the national average.
- 424 Residents trained in CPR in 2015.

**Total Residents Trained
in CPR Since 2006**

9,259



**American
Heart
Association®**
Learn and Live

**Cardiac Arrest
Survival Rate**

17.7%

National AED Registry

In July 2013, the City of Sandy Springs contracted with Atrus to enhance the accessibility of the 154 AED's (Automatic External Defibrillator) owned by the City of Sandy Springs. The AED's are listed in an AED registry database which serves three purposes:

- Good Samaritan Protection
- Maintenance Reminders
- Location Services for rapid public access



Fire Inspections and Investigations

- Conducted 4,327 inspections in 2015.
- Some of the common violations found included: improper exit lighting or signage, fire extinguishers out of service, unsafe electrical cords, fire alarm systems lacking maintenance, and blocked exits.
- Inspected all high risk occupancies including; day cares, schools, nursing homes, hotels, night clubs, restaurants and high rises annually since 2007.
- 26 fire drills/exit assessments performed with over 3,700 participants.
- Investigated 21 fires in 2015 and four fires determined as arson.
- Most frequent inspection types: Annual 48%, Follow-up 25%, and 100 Percent Construction 10%

Photo Courtesy of John Spinks AIC



Water Response Team

- In 2010, the Sandy Springs Police and Fire Rescue departments teamed up to form a river rescue squad that can scour the waters to save people like stranded kayakers or, if necessary, search the river for bodies or weapons.
- The 29 members of the squad, comprised of police officers and firefighters, serve the river area between Morgan Falls dam and Georgia 400.
- Boat Rescue One can travel 34 mph and can hold eight people.
- All team members of the team are required to be certified as swift water technicians and meet minimum swimming performance qualifications.
- Boat Rescue One was called out two times this year.



Specialized Tactics for Operational and Rescue Medicine Program

- Tactical EMS team to support North Metro SWAT operations.
- 16 Paramedics/EMTs from Sandy Springs and Johns Creek were chosen to participate in the program.
- Specialized Tactics for Operational and Rescue Medicine (STORM) is the medical component to the North Metro SWAT Team and is dispatched in tandem for emergency situations.
- Participants attend an initial 16 hour Tactical Combat Casualty Care Medic course, followed by 16 hours of monthly training to prepare them to provide operational medical support directly to a tactical team.
- 832 personnel hours of training done in 2015.
- Sandy Springs Tactical EMS (TEMS) team deployed on two incidents in 2015.





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CUTTING EDGE PERFORMANCE

- EMS Training
- EMS Equipment
- Fire Rescue Training
- Leadership Training
- Recruit Class
- New Fire Apparatus
- Life Saving Awards
- Rotary Club Awards and Recognition
- VFW Awards
- Retirements
- National Citizen Survey

EMS Training

In 2015, EMS personnel participated in 5,214 hours of dedicated EMS training. In addition:

- 4 new full-time Paramedics were hired, credentialed and released for work.
- 8 other EMT/Paramedics were credentialed and released for work.

The Department provides advanced cardiac, pediatric, trauma, medical, and geriatric life support certification classes to its members and opens the classes to outside agencies.

- In 2015, 3 individual certification classes were provided that certified EMT/Paramedics.
- 14 Metro Atlanta Fire departments and Ambulance Services were represented.
- 2 out of state agencies were represented.
- 1 federal agencies were also represented.





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EMS Training

The Department stays up to date with the latest patient care trends and safety practices by sending select EMT/Paramedics to attend conferences which this year included:

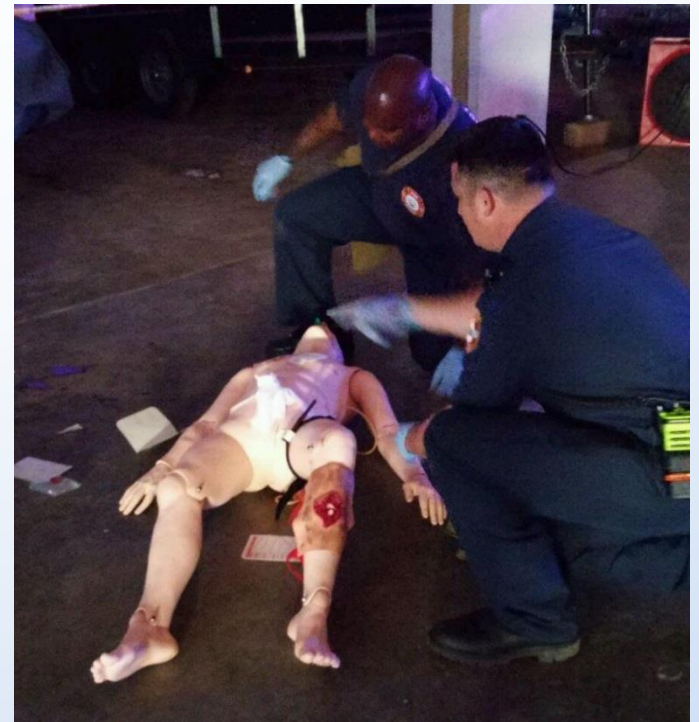
- Region III EMS-Children Conference
- Georgia Association of EMS (GAEMS) Educator Conference
- Region II EMS-Children Conference
- AHA STEMI Conference
- North Georgia STEMI Conference
- Emory Bio Hazard Safety Transport Conference
- Metro Atlanta EMS conference
- GAEMS Leadership Conference



Active Shooter Equipment/Training

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue uses the latest EMS equipment to provide the best patient care to the residents of the City. In 2015, Active Shooter Equipment Bags were added to first response vehicles. These contain hemorrhage control equipment such as:

- Military Grade Tourniquets
- Chest Seals
- Nasal Airways
- Bandages
- Trauma Scissors
- Compression Bandages
- Z-Fold Gauze



Fire Rescue Training

27,566 personnel hours of fire service related training was taken in 2015. This accounted for 7,770 class hours and 1,878 classes. In addition, members obtained the following ProBoard(NPQ)Certifications:

- 8 – Pump Operator
- 8 – Aerial Operator
- 3 – Rope Recue Tech I
- 2 – Roper Rescue Tech II
- 5 – Fire Instructor I
- 1 – Fire Officer II
- 1 – Aircraft Rescue Firefighter
- 6 - Evaluator



Fire Rescue Training

The Department also stays up to date with the latest trends in the fire service and safety practices by sending Fire Department members to attend conferences and seminars which this year included:

- Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs (GAFC)
- Georgia Arson Investigators Conference
- Georgia Fire Safety Symposium
- Georgia Fire Service Conference
- High Rise Symposium
- Metro Atlanta Firefighters Conference (MAFFC)
- Fire Rescue International (FRI)



Leadership Training

- SSFR officers participated in the Axioms of Leadership training program. In addition to classroom work, participants received hands-on training designed to develop effective teamwork and communications through trust exercises.



Recruit Class

- The fire training division graduated two recruit schools this year.
- The first had four new members who completed a 40 hour operational school for pre-certified personnel coming from Georgia Public Safety Training Center.
- The second recruit class had 5 new members and was ten weeks long. New hires completed Basic Firefighter I, including 30 hours of live burns.



New Fire Apparatus

In 2015, SSFR Purchased a HME Mini-Pumper to serve as Engine 5.

- 2015 Ford F550 4x4 Crew Cab
- 400 Gallon Tank
- Hale 1500GPM Single Stage Pump
- Class A Foam System
- Carries 14' 2-section / 8' Roof / 8' Folding Attic ladders



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Life Saving Awards

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue employees are often called to respond to emergency incidents. Each of these events presented a life threatening situation. Without the care provided by SSFR and other personnel, there likely would have been a more serious outcome or death. These life saving events have been documented by Sandy Springs medical directors. In 2015, seven of these events were recognized and the personnel involved honored.

- Life saving events included:
- Cardiac arrests
- Premature births
- Traumatic injuries
- Motor vehicle collisions
- Construction accidents
- Lightning strikes



Rotary Club Awards and Recognitions

The Rotary Club of Sandy Springs paid tribute to the City's public safety employees during its annual Public Safety Awards event. This year's award recipients were:

- 2015 Fire Officer of the Year: James Reeves
- 2015 Paramedic of the Year: Kevin Parks
- 2015 Fire Fighter of the Year: Daniel Fullmore
- 2015 Chief Fire Officer of the Year: Donald Willbanks



VFW Awards and Recognitions

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10822 honored 2 SSFR employees with the following 2015 City of Sandy Springs' Fire & Safety awards:



Daniel Fullmore
- Firefighter of the Year -



Kevin Parks
- Paramedic of the Year -

Region III EMS Awards

- Patrick Flaherty received the Pediatric Award from Region III EMS



Deputy Fire Marshal Cheryl Walls Retires

- Cheryl Walls had over 25 years in the fire service.
- Had over eight years of service with the City of Sandy Springs.



Battalion Chief Ronald Thomas Retires

- Battalion Chief Thomas had 37 years in the fire service.
- Had over eight years of service with the City of Sandy Springs.



Battalion Chief Daryl Smith Retires

- Battalion Chief Smith had 37 years in the fire service.
- Had over eight years of service with the City of Sandy Springs.



National Citizen Survey

- Fire Department rated as "Excellent" or "Good" by 94% of the respondents. (#2 of 50 comparable cities)



Average NCS Rating



*Comparable cities are those with populations of 70,000 – 150,000 that have participated in the NCS.



Fire Department Overview

SSFR provides fire, medical emergency and other services to approximately 99,770* residents in 37 square miles of North Fulton County.

The Department operates out of four fire stations staffed with firefighters working a three shift rotation of 24 hours on and 48 hours off duty. Many of the firefighters are EMS certified some of whom are up to the paramedic level. Each station has at least one Captain and one paramedic. Two of the stations house Battalion Chiefs.

Administrative personnel include: the Fire Chief, the Deputy Chief of Operations and EMA, two Division Commanders, a Community Affairs Officer, two Training Officers, a Fire Marshal, two Deputy Fire Marshals, Fire Inspectors, an Executive Administrative Assistant and an Administrative Assistant.

*2013 Estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau

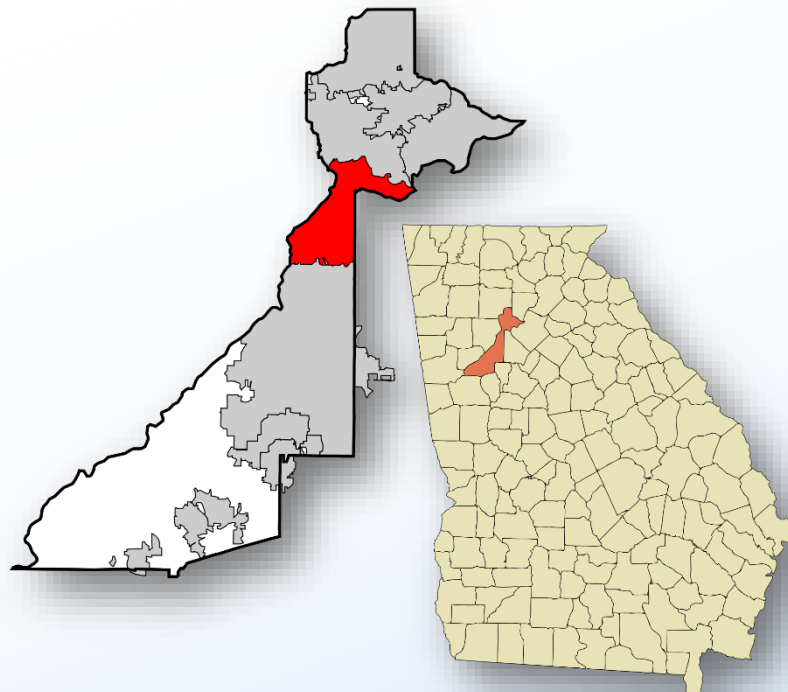


Image via Wikipedia.org

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Thank you and have a safe 2016!

